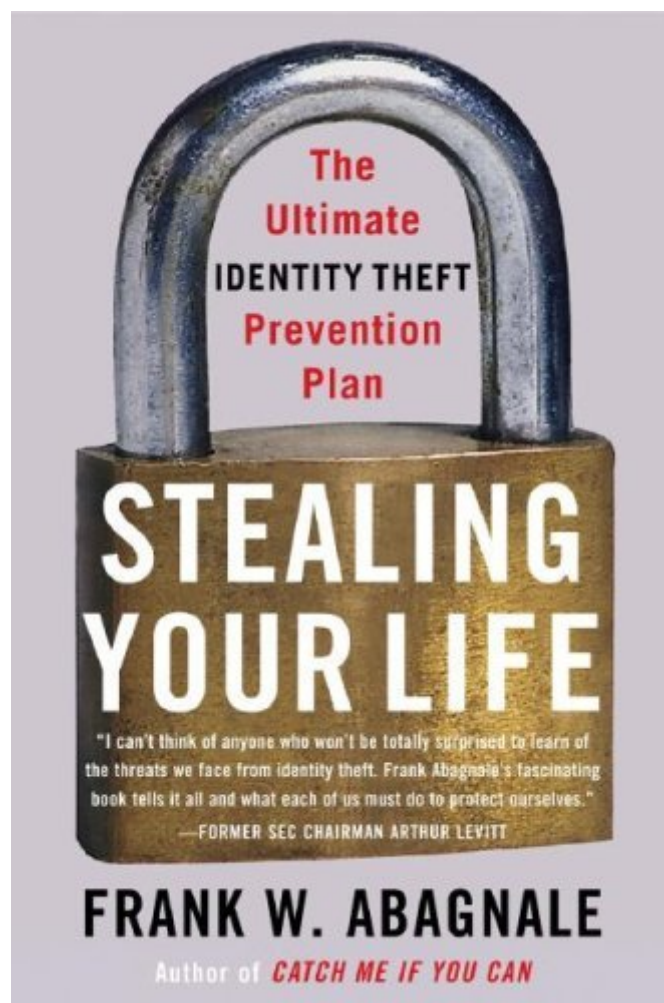


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# Stealing Your Life: The Ultimate Identity Theft Prevention Plan



## Synopsis

The charismatic forger immortalized in the film *Catch Me If You Can* exposes the astonishing tactics of today's identity theft criminals and offers powerful strategies to thwart them based on his second career as an acclaimed fraud-fighting consultant. Consider these sobering facts:

- Six out of ten American companies and government agencies have already been hacked.
- An estimated 80 percent of birth certificate requests are fulfilled through the mail for people using only a name and a return address. So I could take your name and use my address, and get your birth certificate. From there I'm off to the races.
- Americans write 39 billion checks a year, and half of these folks never reconcile their bank statements.
- A Social Security number costs \$49 on the black market. A driver's license goes for \$90. A birth certificate will set you back \$79. When Frank Abagnale trains law enforcement officers around the country about identity theft, he asks officers for their names and addresses and nothing more. In a matter of hours he can obtain everything he would need to steal their lives: Social Security numbers, dates of birth, current salaries, checking account numbers, the names of everyone in their families, and more. This illustrates how easy it is for anyone from anywhere in the world to assume our identities and in a matter of hours devastate our lives in ways that can take years to recover from. Considering that a fresh victim is hit every four seconds, *Stealing Your Life* is the reference everyone needs by an unsurpassed authority on the latest identity theft schemes. Abagnale offers dozens of concrete steps to transform anyone from an easy mark into a hard case that criminals are likely to bypass:

- Don't allow your kids to use the computer on which you do online banking and store financial records (children are apt to download games and attachments that host damaging viruses or attract spyware).
- Beware of offers that appeal to greed or fear in exchange for personal data.
- Monitor your credit report regularly and know if anyone's been knocking on your door.
- Read privacy statements carefully and choose to opt out of sharing information whenever possible.

Brimming with anecdotes of creative criminality that are as entertaining as they are enlightening, *Stealing Your Life* is the practical way to shield yourself from one of today's most nefarious and common crimes.

## Book Information

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Technology

## Customer Reviews

A good book overall to be aware of how identity theft occurs and steps to prevent it from happening to you. I was familiar with most of the tactics identity thieves use, such as the scam emails telling you that millions of dollars will be transferred to your account (I've gotten tons of those emails). Other methods used by identity thieves were unfamiliar to me, such as taking your personal information during supposedly public surveys. I did find the author a bit repetitious, and felt this book could have been written in a fewer pages. The author does however get his point across, and not only will you be scared, but you will also be encouraged to start taking precautions against identity thieves. You will also wonder whether you are already the victim of an identity thief. I did find it surprising that most identity thieves are close friends or relatives! This bit came to me as a shocker, and the author gives many real life cases of how children stole the identity of their own parents, or vice-versa. You can really never trust anyone. I did find it annoying when the author promoted his shredder. I think this could have been discussed in an index, but not within the book itself. This somehow made me take the book less seriously, even though the author is a former counterfeiter and an FBI instructor on identity theft and counterfeits. This book is a must read for anyone wishing to identify identity theft and learn of ways to prevent it from happening in the first place (like shredding all your documents using the author's patented shredder hihihihihihih). The book could have been shorter and more captivating, and I did find myself skipping pages and skimming over others.

This is a book I suggested my husband read, after I had finished it myself. It caused many conversations between us in how to protect ourselves, and then we passed it on to friends. An eye opener.

This is something that everyone should read.

Birthday Girl loved it

A very useful book, even though written some time ago. The advice the authors gives is still valid today, and maybe even more important today than it was back in 2007.

I listened to this book via my Audible.com subscription. I bought the print edition because there were so many reference I wanted to be able to look back on. It's hard to do with the audio version so I bought the book. It makes you so much aware of the things that can bite you. The precautions are worth the price of the book. I don't overlook some of the things he suggested any more.

Item was received on time and is as advertised... good read

Loaded with interesting stories and great advise.

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